IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**
Kazuhiro Ishiguro	Group Art Unit: 2625
Application No.: 10/099,940	Examiner: MICHAEL L. BURLESON
Filed: March 19, 2002	Confirmation No.: 6305
For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD	

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks are in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed November 17, 2008.

REMARKS

Applicant first wishes to thank Examiner Burleson for the allowance of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-13. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance for the following reason.

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance indicates that the prior art of record fails to teach of a first correction unit that corrects data of a pixel judged by a first judgment unit in a first edge area by correcting at least one of a plurality of color component data differently than the other component data and a second correction unit that corrects data of a pixel judged by a second judgment unit in a second edge area by correcting at least one of a plurality of color component data differently than the other component data. However, independent claim 1 recites "An

image processing apparatus for correcting data of each pixel in an edge area, comprising:

a first judgment unit for judging whether a target pixel is in a first edge area by comparing an output from a differential filter with a first reference value;

a second judgment unit for judging whether the target pixel is in a second edge area by comparing the output from a differential filter with a second reference value that is smaller than the first reference value;

a first correction unit for conducting first correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the first judgment unit to be in the first edge area;

a second correction unit for conducting second correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the second judgment unit to be in the second edge area; and

wherein the data of each pixel includes a plurality of color component data;

the first correction unit conducts correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data differently from the other color component data; and

the second correction unit conducts correction processing on all of the color component data in a same manner."

Independent claim 7 recites "An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first judgment unit for judging whether a target pixel is in a first edge area by comparing an output from a differential filter with a first reference value;

a second judgment unit for judging whether the target pixel is in a second edge area by comparing the output from a differential filter with a second reference value that is smaller than the first reference value;

a first correction unit for conducting first correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the first judgment unit to be in the first edge area;

a second correction unit for conducting second correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the second judgment unit to be in the second edge area;

an image forming unit for forming an image based on the data corrected by the first correction unit and the second correction unit; and

wherein the data of each pixel includes a plurality of color component data;

the first correction unit conducts correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data differently from the other color component data; and

the second correction unit conducts correction processing on all of color component data in a same manner."

Independent claim 13 recites "An image processing method for correcting image data corresponding to an edge area, comprising steps of:

judging (a) whether a target pixel is in a first edge area by comparing an output from a differential filter with a first reference value, and (b) whether the target pixel is in a second edge area by comparing the output from a differential filter with a second reference value that is smaller than the first reference value;

conducting (a) first correction processing on data of the target pixel that is judged to be in the first edge area, and (b) second correction processing on the target pixel that is judged to be in the second edge area; and

wherein the data of each pixel includes a plurality of color component data;

the first correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data is different from the other color component data; and

the second correction processing on all of the color component data is performed in a same manner.

Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the November 17, 2008 Notice of Allowability should not be interpreted as narrowing the scope of independent claims 1, 7 and 13 to include any limitations that are not explicitly recited in claims 1, 7 and 13 respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

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